

MICHIGAN NEWS.

THERE IS TROUBLE IN THE SAGINAW PLANING MILLS.

Our Uncle Samuel's Report on Michigan Wheat.

Minor Notes of Men and Things.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—The department of agriculture's monthly statement of the condition of winter grain contains the following reports from the county correspondents in Michigan:

Oakland—Looks better every day; has been improving rapidly for the past few weeks.

Kent—Somewhat injured by the frost.

Lawrence—Improving somewhat.

Manistee—Condition poor. Some will be plowed up and planted to corn and potatoes.

Bay—Looks very brown; the cold dry, northeast winds are doing further harm.

Ottawa—Weather too dry and cold; very little on the soil. A warm rain much needed.

Kalamazoo—Growing finely and in excellent condition.

Midland—Badly killed out, and the weather is so cold and dry that it can make no improvement.

Newaygo—The injury done by the March frosts has been more fully developed during the past month. There are a few good fields on summer fallow; but the general outlook is for nothing over three-fourths of an average crop.

Otsego—Early will stand at 100; late sown killed by snow and ice. Growth ten days later than in 1893.

Washington—No dry light on heavy clay soil. On lighter soils is looking well.

Mason—Looks fine on light lands; on heavy lands injured by frost.

Harvey—Looks well in some localities; badly in others.

Gladwin—Looks very badly; freezing and thawing weather continues and the plant is heated up by the roots.

Iosco—In fair condition.

Genesee—In very poor condition. The estimate given in April was 50 percent, but it is now shown to have been too high.

Monroe—In a sickly condition.

Alcona—Has come through reasonably well so far as winter killing is concerned, but it has not a large growth. Is now starting fairly.

Isabella—Very uneven.

Macomb—Much has been plowed up and sown to oats.

Saginaw—Looks fair on sandy land. On clay and muck lands the condition is difficult to estimate. Some will be plowed up.

Alcona—Has improved, having had plenty of moisture and some warm weather.

Eaton—The estimate given, 46 percent, is probably too high. A large amount is being plowed up.

Wayne—In a very bad condition. Many fields plowed up; what is left looks thin and poor.

Lapeer—The past month it has been generally favorable, but it is still spotted, uneven and weak.

Saginaw Labor.

SAGINAW, May 27.—Trouble is now brewing among the men employed in the planing mills and woodworking establishments. The woodworker's union have asked for a reduction of working hours in the planing mills and box factories. They want a nine-hour day without a reduction of wages. The employers will not concede this. Saturday afternoon E. Germain, operating one of the largest establishments, discharged thirteen union men who, he asserted, were fermenting trouble. Monday morning 20 more quit of their own accord and were paid off. Germain claims that he has no union men now and that he will be able to continue operations. An attempt was made by the strikers at Germain's to stampede the employees at the factory of O'Donnell, Spencer & Co., but was unsuccessful. There are over 2,500 men employed in the planing mills and box factories. The end of the trouble is probably not reached.

Saginaw's Storm.

SAGINAW, May 27.—The electrical storm here was of unusual severity. The electric light plant was forced to suspend for a short time, and the rain fell in torrents, flooding streets and basements.

One dynamo in the generating station of the electric railroad burned out, compelling the company to operate the Washington street line with horses for several hours. A large barn owned by C. Volz, a mile east of this city, was struck by lightning and considerably damaged. C. Grabner's residence on Washington street was also struck and slightly damaged. A barn on Eleventh street, owned by Mr. Walker, was struck and partially destroyed.

STATE NEWS CONDENSED.

Galesburg has no saloons.

A \$15,000 flour mill is being built at Harrisville.

Work has begun on Marquette's new opera house.

There are 175 new buildings going up at Iron Mountain.

Burglars are operating a good deal at Lansing just now.

Six of Michigan's congressmen have declined to be re-nominated.

The patrons of industry will celebrate independence day at Lyons.

Regular trains are now running on the new Lake City branch of the G. R. & L.

Ontonagon gets a new church, a new jail and a new opera house this summer.

Manistee parties are building an artificial ice-house to be used in the fish business.

The Farmers' Alliance have organized a lodge at Greenville with 20 charter members.

Jackson molders are working nine hours a day, with wages advanced to 25 cents per hour.

There are 430 prisoners in the Ionia reformatory and prison day will be observed June 7.

Saginaw wood-workers will have nine hours on or before June 1, or there will be a strike.

Capac is to have a temple of Pythian and composed of the wives of Knights of Pythias.

Augustus Horden of Mosherville, has abandoned his family after 25 years of married life.

Big Rapids talks of inaugurating a boom like the one which is now widely advertising Muskegon.

Sebewaing's coal deposits are to be worked, and that bustling village is looking for a boom.

The telegraph operator at Ironwood is minus, along with \$300 of the Western Union money.

Saginaw Masons have purchased a site and will erect a \$40,000 home. Work will begin about July 1.

Lockford is negotiating with electric light concerns about illuminating its streets, stores and dwellings.

A diploma from the Battle Creek high school will now admit students to the freshman class at the university.

WASHINGTON NEWS.

MR. BURROWS IS SPEAKER PRO TEM OF THE HOUSE.

The House Considering the River and Harbor Bill.

Senator Carlisle Is Honored.

WASHINGTON, May 27.—The house was called to order by Clerk McPherson Monday morning and on motion of Mr. McKinley Mr. Burrows of Michigan was elected speaker pro tem and took the chair amid applause. Members of the Michigan delegation are much pleased at the compliment paid to Burrows, who is as popular among the democrats as he is among the republicans, and his ability as a presiding officer is conceded. This election is a good thing for Burrows in many ways, than one. Ex-speakers have some privileges not accorded to plain everyday congressmen. If Burrows should drop out of congress and want to go on the floor of the senate he could not do so as a member, but as an ex-speaker he has the privilege, and on state occasions, such as inaugurations and other ceremonies, the ex-speakers are included in the list of invited guests, while ex-members have no such consideration shown them.

Fred Ireland of Detroit appeared for the first time Monday at his new post at the house stenographers' desk. It was a coincidence that the first words he took were those of McKinley nominating Burrows as speaker. Speaker Reed showed his care in attending to minor details by writing out Ireland's appointment before hurrying away to his mother's funeral.

The fight over the Hennepin canal has developed the passage of the river and harbor bill in the house, but the chances now are that it will pass in a day or two. At most it is only a question of time, as a majority favor it. The Michigan items of the bill have all run the gauntlet and will get through with the rest.

Senator Carlisle made his debut in the senate Monday. The senate has paid him the usual honor by choosing him as a member of the finance committee, thus jumping him over several senior senators. This committee has the honor of the bill on the tariff, which is still in position to carry on his crusade for revenue reform. His senate desk was almost buried with a huge basket of roses sent by Washington ladies.

Mr. Stanford has introduced a bill for loans on lands and said that he would hereafter address the senate on the subject. It provides for the establishment of a land loan bureau in the treasury department. The secretary of the treasury is authorized to prepare, ready to issue, United States circulating notes of the denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1,000 to the amount of \$100,000,000, and may be paid at any time in sums of not less than 25 percent of the whole amount. The secretary of the treasury is authorized to receive circulating notes of the denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1,000 to the amount of \$100,000,000, and may be paid at any time in sums of not less than 25 percent of the whole amount. The secretary of the treasury is authorized to receive circulating notes of the denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1,000 to the amount of \$100,000,000, and may be paid at any time in sums of not less than 25 percent of the whole amount.

Any citizen of the United States who owns unimproved agricultural land may apply to the land loan bureau for a loan to be secured by lien on such land. No loan shall be made upon land of less than \$500 in value, nor in sums less than \$250 nor for a longer time than 10 years. The loans shall bear interest at the rate of two percent per annum payable annually, and may be paid at any time in sums of not less than 25 percent of the whole amount. The secretary of the treasury is authorized to receive circulating notes of the denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1,000 to the amount of \$100,000,000, and may be paid at any time in sums of not less than 25 percent of the whole amount.

The American Wheel Company of Chicago, has gobbled the Lansing Wheel Company, purchasing the personal property and business and leasing the factory for a term of years. The owners of the property clear \$20,000 by the deal, and will receive a large annual rental for the factory.

Seven little boys, who have been arrested several times for petty thieving, broke into a show case in front of Boecher's bazaar in Jackson and stole seven watch chains, some rings and other jewelry. They were arrested Tuesday morning last. The boys range in age from 8 to 13 years.

A party of young fellows up on Mackinac Island don't propose to have their experience limited to the possibilities of their insular home and have formed an association to take a tour of the world's fair at Chicago in 1893 and make a tour of the old world.

Edward May, better known as "Billy the Snake," died in an old lumber shanty north of Greenville Tuesday morning from the effects of a kick received while trying to steal a horse from the world's fair at Chicago in 1893 and make a tour of the old world.

The Norway Current says that there is a man out on Pine Creek who has a presentiment that he will soon die. He is now 35 years old and is sure he will not live many months more. He is preparing himself in the matter of wearing apparel in good shape. He has now four suits of clothes, a complete wardrobe, two pairs of walking shoes, besides innumerable other items, all of which he wishes put into his coffin.

The Belle Isle Suicide.

DETROIT, May 26.—On Sunday the body of a suicide was found on Detroit's island park. It was that of a man about 6 feet in height and weighing about 230, and probably 45 to 50 years of age. The head was covered with brown hair, well sprinkled with gray, and the face wore a brown beard and mustache, the beard covering the chin, but the cheeks were shaved. The head rested well forward on the chest, and investigation showed that a pistol shot, fired directly into the mouth, was the cause of death. So badly decomposed was the body that it was evident that it had been there for at least a week, the fact that the part of the body which was exposed to the sun was remaining undiscovered so long. It is probable that the man was J. Stron of Brooklyn, N. Y.

FOREIGN BITS.

Queen Victoria is 71 years old.

The striking spinners at London have been compelled to resume work at the old terms.

The crews of the French war ships on the Bahama coast are suffering greatly from fever.

The British war department has refused to pay the survivors of the famous Light Brigade, the "noble six hundred," pensions of \$5 weekly. Many of the veterans are in want.

A plot has been discovered to murder Dr. Herz, one of the wealthiest and most prominent residents of Paris. The man who was commissioned to assassinate him was paid \$10,000.

The lameness of the queen of England has now become so pronounced that she has given up her habit of standing after dinner in the gallery at Windsor, and as soon as she gets into the drawing room a chair is brought and she sits down.

The Temps, Paris, has advice from the French possessions of Senegal which report the capture of Segon and Onseobon by the French forces. A heavy engagement was fought at the latter place April 23, of which the Temps has been furnished with a loss of 1,500, all killed, while but 15 Frenchmen were killed and 73 wounded.

AT PENSACOLA A COLORED WOMAN SUDDENLY FELL TO THE SIDEWALK. HER FALL WAS CAUSED BY THE BURNING OF ONE OF THE ARTERIES OF HER LEFT LEG, AND SHE CAME NEAR EXPIRING BEFORE THE FLOW OF BLOOD COULD BE STANCHED.

SENATOR CARLISLE OCCUPIES A LARGE AND HANDSOME HOUSE ON THE FASHIONABLE PART OF K STREET IN WASHINGTON. IT IS BANDSOMELY FURNISHED AND SOME OF THE PICTURES ON THE WALLS ARE RARE SPECIMENS OF THE PAINTER'S ART.

A needle, one and a half inches long, was recently removed from the side of Mrs. Counsellor Cole of Fredericksburg, Va. Mrs. Cole says she swallowed the needle 40 years ago, and has never felt any inconvenience from it.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Damrosch will spend their honeymoon with Mr. and Mrs. Kimmons Haine in Baltimore and in two three weeks will sail for Europe, where they expect to spend a portion of the summer with the Carnegies.

There is a man in Southern Illinois who laughs at the idea that marriage is a failure. Each successive spouse brought him a farm, and he is now one of the largest land owners in that part of the country.

KEMMLER MUST DIE

By Electricity so Says the Supreme Court.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—The supreme court of the United States, today denied the application for a writ of error in the case of Kemmler, under sentence of death by electricity. Opinion by Chief Justice Fuller. The opinion recites the proceedings in the lower courts leading up to the bringing of this case to this court. The court says that it is urged in Kemmler's behalf that the 14th amendment is a prohibition on the state of the imposition of cruel and unusual punishment, this being included in the term "process of law." The origin of the phrase "cruel and unusual punishment," the court said, was in the English act of settlement of 1688, and meant that barbarous methods of punishment should be abolished. It means that a man should not be sentenced to death by torture, but did not mean that the death penalty itself was cruel. The court of appeals, the opinion says, held that the punishment should be inflicted by means of an unusual, but that there is no evidence to show that it was cruel. The legislature of New York had the facts bearing upon this question and the court must presume that the legislature had devised a punishment that it thought less cruel than the former mode. That decision, the court says, was not against any special privilege set up by the prisoner, and was so plainly right that the court should not be inclined to overrule it. The 14th amendment, it is said, does not change the whole theory of the government. Citizens still remain citizens, both of the state and of the United States. The only change is that the amendment furnishes an additional guarantee against encroachment by the state upon the fundamental rights of the citizens. The privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States are not to be infringed by the states. Those are the privileges arising out of the essential nature and character of the national government. The court quotes the opinion in the case on the meaning of the phrase "process of law," and says that the change in the form of death was within the legitimate sphere of the legislative power of the state. The legislature of the state of New York determined that it did not inflict cruel and unusual punishment, and its courts sustained that determination. This court cannot see that the prisoner has been deprived of due process of law. In order to reverse the judgment the court should be compelled to hold that the court of appeals had committed an error so gross as to deprive the prisoner of his constitutional rights.

STRANGE WEDDING.

Married Against Their Wills and Now Comes Divorce.

A strange case that has set gossiping by the ears has just developed. Bertha Wiese, the daughter of Henry Wiese, a wealthy German farmer, living about three miles from Davenport, Iowa, was widely known and much sought by the young gentlemen of her neighborhood, but her favor was shown to Gustav Eckermann, a neighbor and a devoted servant. That determination between them, but they were quite often together and there seemed to be some sentiment on each side. Her parents became convinced that improper relations had existed between the two, and the daughter was told that she must marry Eckermann. She begged with the most heartrending importunities that this be not forced upon her, but her parents were insensible to her entreaties. The daughter and the young man were sent for. He, too, denied that there had ever been any improper relations between himself and Miss Wiese, and refused to submit to the sacrifice demanded of him, but, seeing that the girl was overborne by the urgings of her parents, and caring too much for her to desert her, he consented and the ceremony proceeded. After it was over the unwilling groom went again to his home and his tearful bride remained with her mother. Soon after the young woman was taken seriously ill and a physician was called. An operation was performed upon the young man, and he recovered, but his bride was now on the way to recovery, but her parents are heartbroken at the injustice done her. The marriage will probably be annulled.

THE INDIANS' DELUSION.

Expecting a Messiah of Their Own.

TOPEKA, Kas., May 24.—United States District Judge Foster, who has just returned from the Indian Territory, says that the Cheyenne, Comanche, Arapaho and several other tribes are just now very much wrought up over the expected appearance of an Indian Messiah. The tribes camped in the river bottom near Fort Reno are daily expecting the appearance of the greatest medicine man, who will come from the northern Cheyennes, near the Black Hills. He promises to restore the country to the Indians in the original state with its forests, its prairies, its buffalo and its game. How the Indians get this idea Judge Foster does not know, but they believe that the Messiah will surely come.

The German East African Company has published its accounts, showing a yearly loss of \$150,000. The realizable assets amount to only \$100,000.

Genesee township, in the county by the same name, is paying a bounty of 15 cents on woodchucks. The adjoining townships will proceed to sell their woodchucks in the same manner.

It is stated that the Chancellor of Capri intends to submit a measure to the Italian senate for the purpose of making men who are ineligible for service in the army and upon all German citizens who reside abroad.

Five thousand of the striking metal workers at Hamburg have resumed work. A suit for \$600,000 worth of land obtained by fraud has been begun in the United States court against ex-Senator Sabin of Minnesota, and the Wisconsin iron company. The land lies in Brice and Dunn counties, and the suit is brought by Willet S. Wain as assignee for the St. Croix land and iron company.

Adelphi has been discovered in the Egyptian desert, which is all that remains of a reservoir constructed by the patriarch Joseph when he was Pharaoh's prime minister. It is proposed to reopen it and it is estimated that this would add 3,000,000 acres to the 10,000,000 already cultivated in Egypt. The reservoir originally covered 250 square miles, and was 250 feet deep.

A GHASTLY ALTAR.

Judge Masterson Swears to Abstain From Drink.

New York, May 27.—The body of Mrs. Florence R. Masterson, who hurried from New Mexico after hearing of her husband's arrest and who fell dead in the Grand Union Hotel was the altar on which Judge Masterson swore abstinence from liquor during the rest of his life. "I learned that my wife died at the time I need her most, and in this horrible way! What use is money to a man with a broken heart, who has lost everything that makes life worth living and has absolutely nothing to live for?" Mrs. Masterson, he said, had come East not to make up any past quarrels, but for the same reason that would take any jealous wife to her husband's side upon finding that he had been unfaithful. The story of his mistress had been shooting pistols at each other in a mysterious fight. Mrs. Masterson, he says, had taken charge of certain matters for him, and he had been paid yesterday. Mrs. Masterson found fault with the shooting party between them had been printed in all the papers of the country and of course had come to Mrs. Masterson's attention. In all of these published stories of the case, she said, she had seen that improper relations had existed between him and Mrs. Masterson. This was not true, but Mrs. Masterson had naturally packed up her things and come to New York. She had been given a couple of days at the Grand Union hotel, and had written him letters to his office in Wall street but he did not know of her presence in town until she came to him at his boarding house yesterday. Mrs. Masterson found fault with him because he had been drinking, and a few moments later she left him abruptly. That was the last time he saw her alive. Mrs. Masterson, who says she is Judge Masterson's cousin, said in speaking of Mrs. Masterson's sudden death: "I did not know of it till the judge called here and informed me. Then we went around together, and there I made him know that I knew of his wife's death. I saw his wife's corpse that he would never touch another drop of liquor."

THE TURKISH KISSERS.

Now There'll be a Big Time in Turkey.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 25.—It has been ascertained that the ladies belonging to the Russian embassy who were assaulted while waiting at Hayukdere were not the daughters of the Russian ambassador, as the embassy and her government, but his wife and daughter. Neither were the offenders four Turkish soldiers, as at first stated, but they were Turkish officers and five students. The case is entirely new. The Russian sailors were seized by the officer and students who forcibly kissed them. A party of sailors belonging to a Russian dispatch boat happened to be in the garden. They were seized by the students and officers and their rescue. They captured four of the assailants, but the fifth succeeded in making his escape for the time being. The sailors conveyed their prisoners to the Russian embassy and delivered them to the Ottoman officials, basing his refusal on the ground that Turkish justice is illusory.

The affair has created much comment and it is feared that it will result in complications between the Russian and Turkish governments.

THE LAW IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—The supreme court has rendered an opinion holding to be unconstitutional the law of Minnesota requiring that all fresh meats sold in the state shall be cut from animals slaughtered in the state and inspected 24 hours before being sold. The case is entitled "State of Minnesota against Henry D. Barber," and is of great interest to dressed beef men, who win the case. Barber was convicted of selling dressed beef slaughtered in Illinois, which had not been inspected before slaughter as required by the law of Minnesota. He alleged that the law was an unconstitutional interference with interstate commerce.

THE MARKETS.

Chicago Grain Markets.

Wheat..... 95 1/2 @ 97 1/2
Corn..... 35 1/2 @ 36 1/2
Oats..... 23 1/2 @ 24 1/2

St. Louis Grain Markets.

Wheat..... 96 @ 97
Corn..... 36 @ 37
Oats..... 24 @ 25

Detroit Markets.

Wheat, No. 2 Red..... 95 1/2 @ 97 1/2
Corn..... 35 1/2 @ 36 1/2
Oats..... 23 1/2 @ 24 1/2

Produce Markets.

Huckwheat, per bush..... 2.25 @ 2.50
Clover seed..... 3.00 @ 3.50
Oats..... 31 1/2 @ 32 1/2

Butter, per lb..... 12 @ 13
Butter, large, best..... 13 @ 14
Beans, hand picked, per bu..... 1.33 @ 1.57

Cheese..... 11 @ 11 1/2
Lard..... 9 @ 9 1/2
Mutton..... 4 @ 4 1/2
Lamb..... 12 @ 13

Eggs..... 1 1/2 @ 1 3/4
Clover, per ton..... 7.00 @ 8.00
Timothy straw, per ton..... 4.50 @ 5.00
Clover straw..... 5.00 @ 5.50

Hides, No. 1 Cured..... 3 1/2 @ 4 1/2
" " " "..... 4 @ 4 1/2
" " " "..... 4 1/2 @ 5 1/2

Sheepskins..... 50 @ 1.25
Potatoes, per bush..... 4.00 @ 4.50
Potatoes, per bush..... 4.00 @ 4.50
Ducks, Live..... 10 @ 11
Turkeys, Live..... 10 1/2 @ 11

Tallow, per lb..... 10 1/2 @ 11

LIVE STOCK.

The cattle market has been fairly active at a decline of 10c from the quotations of last week on all grades. The range was as follows: Good to choice steers \$4.40 @ 5.00; mediums, \$3.50 @ 4.00; good butchers, \$3.20 @ 3.50; stockers, \$2.50 @ 3.00; feeders, \$2.00 @ 2.50.

The sheep market was very light and prices about the same as last week.

The hog market was fairly active, but at prices 1c @ 1 1/2c below last week's rates.

Miss Lizzie Graft of Jackson, Me., who died recently at the age of 40 years, was the mother of 14 children, 11 of whom are living.

Large numbers of respectable young English women are being shipped to Queensland, Australia, which maintains them free of cost until proper employment is obtained.

Labor riots occurred in Ravenna, Italy, Thursday. Three peasants were killed and numerous soldiers and peasants wounded. The latter earned only 10 a day. Anarchists are fomenting the trouble among the workers.

A young doctor of Vienna recently offered to a Croatian girl 19 years old and refused to apologize for his conduct. The girl thereupon challenged him to a duel and the pair fought in a room which had been hired for the purpose. The doctor was defeated in South America and is a splendid fencer, twice wounded the doctor, escaping herself unscathed.

WINGED MISSILES.

In 1893 M. Solomon of Atchison was a freighter across the plains. Among his bull whackers was millionaire Tabor of Colorado.

Buffalo Bill seems to have taken Rome by storm, his audiences average 10,000 people and the enthusiasm being unprecedented in that city.

Ex-Secretary Bayard has written a letter consenting to deliver an oration before the Huguenot society of South Carolina in Charleston on April 14 next.

Opium is the inspissated dried juice of the unripe pods of the *papaver somniferum* or poppy. Morphine is an alkaloid of opium, obtained by chemical treatment.

David Bushnell, of Connecticut, was the first to call attention to torpedoes and torpedo boats, and he made the first torpedo boat in the latter part of the eighteenth century.

A prospector in the San Bernardino Mountains killed a mountain sheep a few days ago that weighed dressed 400 pounds. Its horns measured 16 1/2 inches around at the base.

The Duke of Portland has been disappointed again. It is a girl, and the precedent of a century, during which no direct heir has been born to the house, remains unbroken.

Miss Eliza Porter, a young lady of West Virginia, owns a saw and grist mill on Camp Creek, Boone county, which she conducts herself, and she is laying the foundation of a fortune.

Four comets will be seen this year. French grape growers regard this as a favorable omen, portending a big crop. Superstition still holds its sway, even in the most civilized lands.

In New Orleans they are discussing the propriety of licensing gamblers the same as they do saloons. The gamblers are very much hurt by the proposition. They object to being put on the same grade with saloon men.

An Adelaide, Australia, daily paper has in its employ three men named Day. One of them is called Sun Day because he is a clergyman; another, being a cashier, is called Pay Day, while the third, being a law reporter, goes by the name of Judgment Day.

The life of the late Albert R. Gallatin had extended over several generations. He had dined with the duke of Wellington, and one of his favorite anecdotes told of seeing an American frigate, in the war of 1812, bring up to the foot of Wall street a British frigate taken as a prize on the high seas.

An Alabama negro recently brought to Birmingham some elms cut from a cork tree growing in his neighborhood. He says the tree was imported from the old country and planted many years ago, when a mere twig. It has grown to be several feet in circumference, and the elms show it to be a genuine cork tree.

Cornelius Vanderbilt and his mother, Mrs. William H. Vanderbilt, have decided to build a mission house on Forty-second street, New York, that will surpass in cost, size and appointments any institution of the kind in the world. It is intended as an auxiliary to the work of St. Bartholomew's Protestant Episcopal parish.

An English electrician has been directing his attention to the purification of sea water and other fluids by electricity. He has made careful application of this principle also to wines and brandies. He finds that it has the effect of softening the asperities of some wines by removing the predominant bitartaric of potash.

Kalidass, the greatest dramatic poet of India, has been called the Shakespeare of India. His drama "La Rantala" produced a sensation in Europe. It was translated by Sir William Jones. He is noted for the variety of his creations, his ingenious conceptions, beauty of narrative, delicacy of sentiment and fertility of imagination.

The foster-mother of the little king of Spain is Maximina Pedraza, a handsome woman from the province of Santander, who was chosen from among the thousands who competed for the post, she was so poor that the neighbors at Hervas, her native place, had to subscribe \$10 for her journey to Madrid. She is now worth a fortune, presented to her by the royal family.

Don Pedro lately went to Cannes to inspect its military fortifications, and entrance was at first refused by the sentinel at the gate; but when the soldier learned who he was the bayonet was lifted and he was allowed to pass in. Afterward the sentinel was severely punished by the commanding officer on the ground that the French republic did not recognize ex-emperors and cared to have no monarchs prowling about its forts.

At a recent banquet at San Francisco of the Undertakers' Association of California the menus were printed on cardboard cut in the shape of a coffin, and among the dishes were crab salad a la flaitaire, chicken dressed a la sautée, smelts served on a stretcher and stewed tomatoes a la gripe. The hall was appropriately decorated for the occasion, and among the other artistic displays were an embroidered cushion containing the remains of Siccilly.

The champion free handwriter of the world is believed to be Rita Kitteridge, who resides in Belfast. He is seventy-eight years old, but has written the Lord's Prayer six times r-p-acedly on the space covered by a single line of print, which is at the rate of 3,000 words on